

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Original): A method of manufacturing a fuel injector, comprising:
providing a valve group subassembly comprising:

- a tube assembly having a longitudinal axis extending between a first end and a second end, the tube assembly including an inlet tube having an inlet tube face;

- a seat secured at the second end of the tube assembly, the seat defining an opening;

- an armature assembly disposed within the tube assembly, the armature assembly having an armature face, at least one of the armature face and the inlet tube face having a first portion generally oblique to the longitudinal axis;

- a member biasing the armature assembly toward the seat;

- an adjusting tube located in the tube assembly, the adjusting tube engaging the member and adjusting a biasing force of the member;

- a filter assembly located in the tube assembly, the filter assembly engaging the member and adjusting a biasing force of the member; and

- a first attaching portion;

providing a coil group subassembly including:

- a solenoid coil operable to displace the armature assembly with respect to the seat; and

- a second attaching portion;

- inserting the valve group subassembly into the coil group subassembly; and

- connecting the first and second attaching portions together.

Claim 20 (Original): The method according to claim 19, wherein the armature includes at least one radial facing surface, the method further comprising:

- masking the at least one radial facing surface; and

- hardening the armature face.